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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,078	12/29/2000	Ravindra R. Mantena	YOR920000551US1	2055

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EXAMINER

WORJLOH, JALATEE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/751,078

Applicant(s)

MANTENA ET AL

Examiner

Jalatee Worjloh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on June 23, 2004, in which claims 1, 2, 16, 31 and 32 were amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to all claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Claims 1-45 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1,2, 8, 14-17, 23, 29-32, 44 and 45 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Vetcentric.com Web-Enables Veterinary Supply Chain Using Neon Technology", Dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116, to PR Newswire in view of US Patent No. 6415156 to Stadelmann.

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Referring to claims 1 and 31, PR Newswire discloses electronically receiving a sales order in a private electronic environment from a purchaser in a public electronic environment, and automatically returning an electronic order confirmation from the private electronic environment to the public electronic environment for providing to the purchaser (see entire document). PR Newswire does not expressly disclose obtaining an entitled price and an estimated date of delivery or the electronic order confirmation comprises the entitled price and the estimated date of delivery. Stadelmann discloses obtaining an entitled price and an estimated date of delivery or the electronic order confirmation comprises the entitled price and the estimated date of delivery (see col. 3, lines 3-29). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire to include the step obtaining an entitled price and an estimated date of delivery and the electronic order confirmation comprises the entitled price and the estimated date of delivery. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it ensures that the entities involve in the transaction agrees with the transaction details; thereby, reducing disputes.

Referring to claims 2, 8, 32 and 38, PR Newswire discloses the public electronic environment comprises a front end application, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a back end Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application, wherein the electronically receiving comprises electronically receiving by the back end ERP application the sales order from the front end application, and the automatically returning comprises automatically returning the electronic order confirmation from the back end ERP application to the front end application; wherein the ERP comprises SAP (see entire document). PR Newswire does not expressly disclose obtaining entitled price and the estimated date of delivery from the

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backend ERP application. However, this difference is only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and is not functionally involved in the steps recited. The obtaining an electronic order confirmation from the private electronic environment would be formed the same regardless of the data. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.3d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to obtain any type of ordering data, and return an electronic order confirmation comprising the data because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

Referring to claims 14, 15, 44 and 45, PR Newswire disclosing the electronically receiving a sales order in a private electronic environment from a purchaser in a public electronic environment (see claim 1 above). PR Newswire does not expressly disclose the sales order is a made-to-order item or an out-of-stock item. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the step recited. Receiving a sales order step will be performed the same regardless of the order item. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made to receive orders of any type,

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because such item does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the item does not patentably distinguish the claim invention.

Referring to claims 16, 17 and 23, PR Newswire discloses means for electronically receiving a sales order in a private electronic environment from a purchaser in a public electronic environment, and means for automatically returning an electronic order confirmation from the private electronic environment to the public electronic environment for providing to the purchaser wherein the public electronic environment comprises a front end application, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a back end Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application, wherein the means for electronically receiving comprises electronically receiving by the back end ERP application the sales order from the front end application, wherein the means for obtaining comprises obtaining the electronic order confirmation from the back end ERP application, and wherein the means for automatically returning comprises automatically returning the electronic order confirmation from the back end ERP application to the front end application; wherein the ERP comprises SAP (see entire document). PR Newswire does not expressly disclose means for obtaining an entitled price and an estimated date of delivery or the electronic order confirmation comprises the entitled price and the estimated date of delivery. Stadelmann discloses means obtaining an entitled price and an estimated date of delivery or the electronic order confirmation comprises the entitled price and the estimated date of delivery (see col. 3, lines 3-29). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire to include means for obtaining an entitled price and an estimated date of delivery and the electronic order confirmation comprises the entitled price and the estimated date of delivery. One of ordinary

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skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it ensures that the entities involved in the transaction agree with the transaction details; thereby, reducing disputes.

Referring to claims 29 and 30, PR Newswire disclosing the electronically receiving a sales order in a private electronic environment from a purchaser in a public electronic environment (see claim 1 above). PR Newswire does not expressly disclose the sales order is a made-to-order item or an out-of-stock item. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the step recited. Receiving a sales order step will be performed the same regardless of the order item. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made to receive orders of any type, because such item does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the item does not patentably distinguish the claim invention.

6. Claims 3-7, 10, 11, 33-37, 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116 and Stadelmann as applied to claims 2 and 32 above, and further in view of "Candle and AT&T Team up at SAPPHIRE Conference to Demonstrate Any-To-any Application Integration for SAP R/3 Application via the Web or Lotus Notes", Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200, to PR Newswire.

Referring to claims 3-7, 10, 11, 33-37, 40 and 41, PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) discloses electronically receiving comprises electronically receiving the sales order by the ERP application. PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) does

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not expressly disclose receiving from messaging middleware. PR Newswire (dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses receiving the sales order by the ERP application from messaging middleware; the method further comprising electronically sending a command to the ERP application from the messaging middleware; wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES or MSMQ and the ERP application comprises SAP; wherein the front end application comprises a browser, and wherein the public electronic environment comprises a global computer network (see paragraphs 5 and 6). Note. PR Newswire (dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses an ERP system called ERPNet that “easily allow distributors to order merchandise through the web”; the ERPNet consists of a web-browser front-end application, “communicating to an SAP R/3 system over IBM’s MQSeries or Microsoft’s MSMQ, back-end application”, which infers receiving the sales order by the ERP application from messaging middleware and sending a command to the ERP. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) to include the step of receiving the sales order by the ERP application form messaging middleware. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides means for software integration for data exchange, improving e-commerce transactions.

7. Claims 9 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) and Stadelmann as applied to claims 2 and 32 respectively above, and further in view of “Boeing takes off with Baan”, dialog file 245, accession no. 00109318, to InfoWorld.

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PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) discloses ERP application (see claim 2 above). PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) does not expressly disclose the ERP application comprises BAAN. InfoWorld discloses the ERP application comprises BAAN (see entire document). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire to include the step wherein the ERP application comprises BAAN. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it effectively “links 18,000 users in four geographical regions, 19 manufacturing sites, and six database servers to handle as many as 6,000 concurrent users”; thus, providing sufficient integration.

8. Claims 12, 13, 42 and 43 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116, Stadelmann, and Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200, to PR Newswire as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 6418448 to Sarkar.

PR Newswire (Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses electronically receiving by the ERP application the sales order form messaging middleware, and wherein the automatically (see paragraphs 5 and 6). Note. PR Newswire (dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses an ERP system called ERPNet that “easily allow distributors to order merchandise through the web”; the ERPNet consists of a web-browser front-end application, “communicating to an SAP R/3 system over IBM’s MQSeries or Microsoft’s MSMQ, back-end application”, which infers receiving the sales order by the ERP application from messaging middleware. PR Newswire (Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) does not expressly disclose sending the electronic order confirmation from the ERP application to the messaging

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middleware, forwarding the electronic order confirmation from the messaging middleware to a global computer network site server on the global computer network, and returning the electronic order confirmation from the global computer network site server to the browser. Sarkar discloses sending the electronic order confirmation from the ERP application to the messaging middleware, forwarding the electronic order confirmation from the messaging middleware to a global computer network site server on the global computer network, returning the electronic order confirmation from the global computer network site server to the browser, and encrypting and decrypting the electronic order confirmation between the browser and the global computer network site server (see col. 9, lines 32-67; col. 10, lines 1-9). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire (Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) to include the steps of sending the electronic order confirmation from the ERP application to the messaging middleware, forwarding the electronic order confirmation from the messaging middleware to a global computer network site server on the global computer network, and returning the electronic order confirmation from the global computer network site server to the browser. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides means for software integration for data exchange, thus, improving e-commerce transactions.

9. Claims 18-22, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116 and Stadelmann as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of "Candle and AT&T Team up at SAPPHIRE Conference to Demonstrate Any-

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To-any Application Integration for SAP R/3 Application via the Web or Lotus Notes”, Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200, to PR Newswire.

PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) discloses electronically receiving comprises electronically receiving the sales order by the ERP application. PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) does not expressly disclose means for receiving from messaging middleware. PR Newswire (dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses means for receiving the sales order by the ERP application from messaging middleware; the method further comprising means for electronically sending a command to the ERP application from the messaging middleware; wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES or MSMQ and the ERP application comprises SAP; wherein the front end application comprises a browser, and wherein the public electronic environment comprises a global computer network (see paragraphs 5 and 6). Note. PR Newswire (dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses an ERP system called ERPNet that “easily allow distributors to order merchandise through the web”; the ERPNet consists of a web-browser front-end application, “communicating to an SAP R/3 system over IBM’s MQSeries or Microsoft’s MSMQ, back-end application”, which infers receiving the sales order by the ERP application from messaging middleware and sending a command to the ERP. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) to include the step of receiving the sales order by the ERP application form messaging middleware. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides means for software integration for data exchange, improving e-commerce transactions.

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10. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) and Stadelmann as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of “Boeing takes off with Baan”, dialog file 245, accession no. 00109318, to InfoWorld.

PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) discloses ERP application (see claim 2 above). PR Newswire (dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116) does not expressly disclose the ERP application comprises BAAN. InfoWorld discloses the ERP application comprises BAAN (see entire document). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire to include the step wherein the ERP application comprises BAAN. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it effectively “links 18,000 users in four geographical regions, 19 manufacturing sites, and six database servers to handle as many as 6,000 concurrent users”; thus, providing sufficient integration.

11. Claims 27 and 28 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dialog file 613, accession no. 00373116, Stadelmann and Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200, to PR Newswire as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 6418448 to Sarkar.

PR Newswire (Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses electronically receiving by the ERP application the sales order from messaging middleware, and wherein the automatically (see paragraphs 5 and 6). Note. PR Newswire (dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) discloses an ERP system called ERPNet that “easily allow distributors to order merchandise through the web”; the ERPNet consists of a web-browser front-end application,

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“communicating to an SAP R/3 system over IBM’s MQSeries or Microsoft’s MSMQ, back-end application”, which infers receiving the sales order by the ERP application from messaging middleware. PR Newswire (Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) does not expressly disclose means for sending the electronic order confirmation from the ERP application to the messaging middleware, means for forwarding the electronic order confirmation from the messaging middleware to a global computer network site server on the global computer network, and means for returning the electronic order confirmation from the global computer network site server to the browser. Sarkar discloses means for sending the electronic order confirmation from the ERP application to the messaging middleware, means for forwarding the electronic order confirmation from the messaging middleware to a global computer network site server on the global computer network, means for returning the electronic order confirmation from the global computer network site server to the browser, and encrypting and decrypting the electronic order confirmation between the browser and the global computer network site server (see col. 8, lines 38-60; col. 9, lines 32-67; col. 10, lines 1-9). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method disclose by PR Newswire (Dialog file 20, accession no. 02821200) to include means for sending the electronic order confirmation from the ERP application to the messaging middleware, means for forwarding the electronic order confirmation from the messaging middleware to a global computer network site server on the global computer network, and mans for returning the electronic order confirmation from the global computer network site server to the browser. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides means for software integration for data exchange, thus, improving e-commerce transactions.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jalatee Worjloh whose telephone number is 703-305-0057. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 - 7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 for Regular and After Final Actions and 703-746-9443 for Non-Official/Draft.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

***Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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September 23, 2004


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